

Pyeng Yang, Korea - Feb. 15, 1906

My dear sister,

I was just wondering where I should begin to tell you about the wonderful work of the Master here in Korea. The Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of the people to the remotest parts of the land, until we - away off here in far away Korea, are in the midst of the wonderful revival which is encircling the globe.

Almost every day a Helper, or some Christian from the country comes in with beaming countenance and joyful heart to tell what the Lord is doing for the people in their villages.

In many places only a short time ago, perhaps 20 or 25 or 30 were attending services, but now there are probably 120 or more, and the little room, called a church, has become too small. A Christian who is fortunate enough to have a large room throws open his doors for services. Instead of only one service, there are several in the same village.

About 13 miles from here is a little group of new believers, only babes in the faith, and yet they have strength and grace to endure persecution. One week ago last Sunday the elder of the village with a band of wicked men like himself, came to the house where the 40 believers were meeting for worship. They tried to prevent the spread of the Gospel in their village by force. They beat the Christians, hurt 5 badly, - one man was badly injured by being beaten by a 3-pronged hook. The next day two men came in here to find out if any measures could be taken by law to stop such wicked work. They were advised not only by the missionaries but by the officers of the church here to keep away from the village officials, as that would be best for the work. They returned trusting in the Lord to help them. Yesterday a report came from them saying that the Christians had gained the victory. The wicked official with several others came with a jar of rum, and sent for others to come and drink and carouse there in the house where the Christians had met for worship, but they would not come, so the 3 or 4 men had the drinking-party all to themselves. In a short time the Christians announced that they would begin their service. The few intruders went on with their drinking, while the Christians continued their worship service. The unbelievers, seeing the quiet way in which the Christians received this persecution with no retaliation, were amazed, and some even said they wanted to believe. There is little doubt that Satan will not give up so easily, but one thing we do know is that grace will be given God's children to bear their trials.

I might give more such instances of similar persecution, and in every case the group is stronger for having endured persecution for the Master's sake.

One way to make strong and faithful Christians is the study of the Word. Therefore effort has been made to have the Bible taught in as many places as possible during the past few months, and especially during this past month. In the Western Circuit 7 classes of a week each have been held for women; two more are now in progress and one more is to begin next week. The attendance at these classes averages from 40 or 50 to over one hundred. Korean Christian women from the city churches taught in 8 out of these 10 classes. Those who taught and some who studied spent the afternoons calling in the unbelieving homes, preaching to everyone they met. On their return they stop in to see me before going to their homes. Cold and tired after a long tramp through the snow, they say to me, "There is so

much joy in the work that we forget the hardships".

In November the usual class for the country women was held here. The attendance was over 300, and yet many were kept away because of the report of the coming of Japanese soldiers at that time. The women all studied well and the interest kept up until the last.

At the Korean holiday season, the end of January, the class for the city women was held at the Central and South Gate churches. The attendance at these classes was not as large as it should have been, yet we were encouraged that there were more women than ever before at these city classes. There were over 200 at the Central church, and over 50 at the South Gate church. It was our first class at the South Gate church and those who attended were most appreciative.

I was not able to teach in the classes but it was my privilege to lead the last meeting in the South Gate church, closing with a prayer and testimony meeting. Some almost broke down in tears telling what wonderful things the Lord had done for them. The mornings were spent in the study of the Bible, and an hour or more teaching those who could not read. In the afternoon consecration meetings were held after which they all, -men and women, went out two by two calling and preaching from house to house. Beside these who went preaching, others who were not able to preach, were selected to distribute invitations to the evening meetings. In this way 7,000 invitations were distributed daily for 9 days, besides thousands of tracts given out personally. These invitations and tracts were not distributed so much on the streets, but were put in the same houses day after day.

The doors of opportunity for preaching the Gospel are wide open as one testimony will show. One of the young men whose duty it was to call at 100 houses during the afternoon and hand in these invitations and tracts, said, "Out of 98 houses 97 received me gladly, and only one gave me words of abuse". Those who had gone calling in the afternoon, retraced their steps in the evening to return for those to whom they had preached and escorted them to the church.. By such earnest efforts of the Christians no doubt every man and woman in Pyeng Yang city has heard something of the Gospel.

There are six churches in the city, - 2 are Methodist and 4 are Presbyterian. At all the different churches about 1500 or 2000 manifested a desire to believe. Out of this vast number who will become true Christians and remain faithful, only God knows. Every effort is being made to come into personal contact and to teach all these new believers. Special meetings are held each evening where Bible truths and the Catechism are taught.

Beside the many who manifested a desire to believe, many who had fallen away into sin were reclaimed, making public confession of their sins and returning unto the Lord.

At the beginning of the revival meetings there was, no doubt, in the minds of some whether the classes should go on and the meetings be held on account of the small-pox epidemic which was reported to be very bad. -"worse than it had been for years". The officers of the church were consulted and it was their opinion that the meetings should go on, with warning and advice given to those who had children and to those who went calling. The disease did not seem to spread much, as we did not hear much about it. The Koreans are much more careful now about having their children vaccinated so the dreadful disease does not have a chance to carry away so many little ones.

If you wish to put this in the Independent -if you think its worth anything, you may have it printed.

Lovingly your sister, Sallie Swallen.

## Christmas in Pyeng Yang - 1906

Dec. 25, 1906

You may be interested in knowing how we foreigners and the native Korean Christians celebrate Christmas. Early, even before it was light our household was up getting the little remembrances ready and also opening the precious packages where were so thoughtfully sent us from the homeland and had been laid away unopened.

Even before breakfast little Scott Wells dressed up as old Santa with his bag of gifts came on his way to each house, making the other children happy with his quaint appearance and his low, gruff, "Good morning, children!" While we were at the breakfast table packages began coming. Can you imagine the wild excitement of our five children to see what they got! How happy they were, skipping from room to room Soon the basket of our gifts to others was filled and sent out to make them happy. Wilbur had the pleasure of taking them around.

At 9:30 the church bells began to ring out the summons for all to come and give praises to Him Who came to redeem a sin-cursed world. Before 10 o'clock the church was filled to overflowing. All of us foreigners were escorted to the gallery where we got a good view but could hear little of what was going on. It certainly was a sight worth seeing. The South Gate and Central churches joined in the exercises that were held. The crowd could not all get in the building, and the womens side of the church became so jammed that it was necessary to dismiss the women with the promise to repeat the program in the afternoon. The difficulty was to get the women out, for they could not understand why they should go. An audience of Christians can be controlled but when the unbelievers begin to crowd in as they did that morning, the situation becomes alarming. Soon there would have been a stampede and no doubt some were hurt. It took about all the missionaries could do, with the ehlp of the elders, to get the women out. When the womens side was cleared it was quickly filled by men who had been standing outside waiting to get in. The program was then carried out as planned. All the Koreans doing their parts did it in a creditable manner. "The Coming of the Shepherds" was given. A quartet of Academy boys and the singing of the students was splendid. About 15 or 20 little girls prettily dressed with bright yellow jackets and red skirts sang beautifully Luther's "Cradle Song", making motions as they sang.

I never saw the church so artistically and prettily decorated. Arches of evergreen with paper flowers and flags placed here and there all over the arches. An offering was received for the poor of the city amounting to \$75.00 gold. A large quantity of rice and grain were contributed by school children, each one bringing as much as he could, and placing it in a vessel at the church. In the afternoon 70 Christian men selected for their fitness went out two by two to preach at 35 selected points in the city. Many others did the same, no one knows how many. A large committee appointed to for the purpose, distributed the rice and money to the poor, those in extreme poverty.

Christmas is always a truly happy day for the native Christians. The simple earnestness with which they all enter into the service made it a most praise-worthy celebration. It was one which in many ways reminded the people of the Great Gift of God, Jesus our Savior.

At 3:30 Christmas afternoon the foreign community gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs Lee. A very interesting program of recitations, songs, and dialogue was rendered by the children under the direction of their teacher, Miss armstrong. Mrs. Lee had so artistically arranged a fireplace down which old Santa Clau was expected by a lot of eager children. Nor were they disappointed. At the close of a song

"Ingl. Bells" a real old Santa came down the chimney.

Pyeng Yang, Korea

March 1, 1906

Harry C. Whiting

Dr. Arthur J. Brown

My Dear Doctor:

Your kind letter of January 13<sup>th</sup> was duly received. Thank you for it. I know you have a very large family to keep in touch with and I am therefore the more grateful for a personal letter. We always enjoy a Station letter but a personal letter is especially prized since we are so apt to feel that we are only a very small unit in the great missionary enterprise of our church and become so engrossed in our little corner as to miss the force and swing of the world wide work. The little magazine *All the World* surely has a Mission. We read every word of it. My experience as elder in two home churches made it very clear to me that some such methods as the *Forward Movement* is employing are absolutely necessary to awaken the Church to its opportunity.

Your notification that the Madison Avenue Church had undertaken my support was a great surprise and pleasure. I had thought that I was split up and being supported in sections. I often attended that church while doing post-graduate work at the New York Post-graduate School and Hospital when Dr. Parkhurst was pastor. Dr. Moffett met Mr. Coffin in Edinburgh and speaks of him as being a very superior man. I wish to do all I can to interest the church in Korea and if Mr. Coffin has any suggestions to offer I would be pleased to follow them. Shall write to him soon. My work is not spectacular, nor am I able to write interestingly of the sick for they are the same in all lands. I believe a history of Chai Ryung Station would be interesting & I hope to be able to give it chapter by chapter. I am to leave tomorrow for missions where I am to help in teaching a class and treating the sick. We are to begin building operations at Chai Ryung March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Lord permitting - property to be fenced, well dug and the first house started. It was my privilege a short time ago to spend a week in the country with our great man, Dr. Moffett. I had been looking forward to it and the close companionship and fellowship of country class together was invaluable to me. I do not think it incumbent upon missionaries to compare or contrast one with another but in Dr. Moffett's case he is in a class by himself. It has been his plans and guiding hand under divine blessing that has made the work in North Korea so successful. The Koreans love him and come to him for advice and comfort so that he has been enabled to develop a large number of strong men. At present Fusan has one of his men loaned for 4 months, Seoul another and all the men in the North have at some time or other come under his molding influence. At Chai Ryung in our winter class he overcame a restless spirit in some of our leaders and set them straight. So at this class at "So Neul" there had been some coldness amongst the people and he wished to be with them & find out their trouble. It was a pleasure to watch the developments from day to day. Soon they began to confess their sins and before we left he had every man on fire again. There may be other more brilliant in this field, but there are none who approach him in sound judgment or executive ability. I have watched Station Matters here, and his plans always win the support of the Station although he never pushes his plans ahead of others, but lets the logic of his position be seen, knowing that the good sense of the Station will carry the day. This reminds me - on Monday I examined Mr. Lee for glasses & in the examination found some myopic astigmatism in his right eye. The next day Dr. Moffett came for examination & I found that his left eye was astigmatic - so I draw the inference that since Graham Lee & Dr. Moffett have pulled together so many years and are complimentary to one another it must be due to the fact that they have opposite eyes alike & therefore never see at cross purposes. Moral - choose men with opposite eyes alike for the close life of Mission Stations.

The class at "So Neul" was not large, about 75 being in attendance. It was very cold, and so much snow on the ground that it was hard for the Koreans to travel. Then one large village where there is a strong church only 3 miles away had an unwelcome invasion of 200 Japanese soldiers who took possession of the village so the Christians had to stay at home & watch their homes & families.

You spoke in your letter of urging Mr. Tooker to build a hospital for Chai Ryung. I am not ambitious for a big hospital. I know that the best work can only be done by the best tools and nothing is too good for a hospital. I do not want, however, to divert one cent from the evangelistic work. I hope some day to have a good operating room, and a few Korean rooms fitted up clean & with plenty of sunlight where I can look out for the Whang Hai sick. And if you meet anyone who wants to build such a building don't discourage him. I can use it to good advantage. I find that my ability to draw is a great help in interesting & teaching the Koreans. Like children, they can grasp an idea more readily by the eye than in any other way. So now, wherever I go in the country I take blackboard cloth and chalk and patch out my lack of words with a few chalk lines. Yesterday was James McKee Moffett's first birthday. All the small children in the lower schools were invited to a birthday party. 395 boys & girls in bright colors gathered at the Men's Sarang & were made happy by fancy bags of candy & a general romp. Scott Wells ran a phonograph which added much to the fun. Mrs. Whiting has not been very well lately, but I trust that soon she will be as usual. Thanking you again for your good letter -

I am yours sincerely,

Harry C. Whiting

